
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: March 14, 2012
Time: 10:45 a.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #1

The department conducted the first aerial survey of the 2012 season on Tuesday, March 13. This extensive survey covered all areas of Sitka Sound, south to Crawfish Inlet and north to Salisbury Sound. Spotting conditions were good with light winds. No herring were seen. All areas to the south of Sitka were quiet with minimal bird and sea lion activity. North of Sitka there were 130 sea lions inside of Katlian Bay, 20 sea lions off Harbor Point, 7 sea lions off the eastern side of Big Gavanski Island, 8 sea lions on east Middle Island, 15 sea lions in Eastern Bay, and 25 sea lions in Hayward Strait. Eight whales were seen scattered in the area from Halibut Point to the mouth of Katlian Bay and two whales were seen in Eastern Bay. In Salisbury Sound there were 25 sea lions scattered between Kane Island and St. John Baptist Bay and 2 whales were seen north of Kane Island. The next aerial survey is scheduled for Friday, March 16.

No roe test samples have been taken to date. The department plans to dispatch the *R/V Kestrel* from Petersburg to Sitka when roe samples indicate the need to put the fishery on 2-hour notice. A pre-fishery organizational meeting will occur no later than March 25 and may be scheduled earlier if the fishery is placed on 2-hour notice before then.

Permit holders wanting to make practice sets may do so in the deeper waters of Eastern Channel south of Jamestown Bay.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below, and on a recorded message phone at (907) 747-1009.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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